

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the withdrawal of the objections to claims 21 and 24.

With respect to the Examiner's objections to independent claim 16, although Applicants again submit that no amendments are necessary to place this claim in condition for allowance, Applicants have further amended independent claim 16 herein solely in the interests of expediting prosecution. Specifically, Applicants have deleted the word "substantially," to which the Examiner objected. Applicants have also amended claim 16 to redundantly recite the word "region" after each noun in the conjunctive phrase "channel region and low density regions."

As previously discussed, these amendments do not alter the substance of the claims in any way. The phrases "all," "substantially all," and "generally all" are equivalents, and particularly with respect to the cited subject matter in the context of claim 16. One skilled in the art would understand that the phrase now recited in claim 16, namely, "covering all of the surface...", is not substantively different than the previous phrase to which the Examiner objected ("substantially all..."). As previously discussed, the Examiner's assertion that the Specification did not define the phrase is incorrect, because the drawings discussed in the previous arguments clearly illustrate the meaning of the phrase. The language amended herein does not change the substance of the claim or those previous arguments because it is understood by those skilled in this field of art that "all of the surface" is not claimed with such mathematical precision to

require perfection to the atomic level. The phrase still necessarily allows for some manufacturing tolerances within the scope of the claim, as even now recited.

A similar error exists with respect to the Examiner's other objection that claim 16 did not previously recite the word "region" after every noun in the conjunctive phrase. The Examiner does not dispute that "a first region and a second region" is the grammatical and substantive equivalent to "first and second regions". Therefore, it is equally true that "the channel and low density impurity regions" phrase is grammatically and substantively equivalent to "the channel region and low density impurity regions." Whether or not the Examiner's preferred phrasing of the claim may be better is irrelevant to the patentability to the claim. As previously discussed, the Examiner is admonished in the MPEP to allow a claim as long as the language is sufficiently clear to one skilled in the art, as was the case with claim 16 as last amended.


Applicants submit that it was improper for the Examiner to refuse to withdraw the outstanding rejection based upon what appears to be only claim objections. The proper course of action for the Examiner, when only objections to the claims remain, is to substantively allow the case, but require correction of the matters objected to in a Quayle Action. Accordingly, although a Request for Continued Examination is submitted herewith, Applicants further submit that no such Request should be necessary, and the case should be put in condition for allowance based only upon the grammatical corrections to independent claim 16 submitted herein.

For all of the foregoing reasons, all of claims 16-17, 21, and 24-26, should be in condition for allowance, which is once again respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if yet another interview would help expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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